



Rode Heath Primary School
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Rode Heath
PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter

December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we approach the end of the strangest of years, we continue to try and operate with as much normality as we are able to in these difficult times. Your children, as usual, have adapted brilliantly to all changes and are taking everything in their stride. They are a real credit to you.

Covid update

We are almost a full complement of classes in school, and we would like to thank all parents for helping us to reduce the spread of Covid by following Government guidance both on and around school site, and when it comes to isolation periods. As the weather gets colder, we will inevitably get the usual ailments that are commonplace at this time of year and we appreciate that it is sometimes difficult to know whether to send your child into school. We ask that if your child is unwell, you keep them off school as it gives you just a little more time to assess whether it is seasonal illness or whether a covid test is required.

Parent Survey

As usual at this time of year, we are asking you to share your thoughts on our school in a parent survey. The initial questions are the same as last year so that we can make comparisons and see if changes we have implemented have had an impact. In addition to this, we have added a section in about Covid-19 and our response to the pandemic. Please do complete this survey as your feedback really is valued and helps us to make alterations that improve our school further. The link for the survey is:-

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RodeHeathPrimarySchoolParentSurvey2020

Festive Season

As we are normally surrounded by Mary, Joseph, straw and donkeys at this time of year, it feels very strange in school not to be preparing for the festive season in our usual way. However, we hope to make the very best of the run up to Christmas and will still be trying to replicate some of our traditions in a safe way!

Christmas Tree

Huge thanks to **Landale Fencing** for supplying us with a beautiful Christmas tree. It really has got us into the festive spirit and the year 6 children enjoyed decorating it immensely. I don't think they've done a bad job...do you?

Panto - Cinderella

Mrs Fahy (Corey's mum Y5) has managed to find us a 'Virtual Panto' that will be zoomed into each class for all to enjoy. This will take place on Thursday the 17th of December and we ask that children wear Christmas jumpers on that day. Our Parents' Association, as always, have kindly paid for the Panto.



PA

Mrs Fahy also deserves a huge 'shout out' after managing to secure £1,000 of funds for the school after applying for a 'catch up grant' through Asda. Filling in grant applications is a lengthy task and does not always lead to a successful outcome, so we are delighted that we have been awarded this money, particularly in the present financial climate. As advertised in my last newsletter, you can help raise funds for the school by using Amazon Smile when buying online.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner will take place on Thursday the 10th of December. Menus detailing exactly what is on offer will be sent home this week. Christmas dinner will be staggered over several sittings in order to allow each class to go into the hall and eat together with their staff bubble. I can verify that our new school cook Mrs Angie O'Leary, is excellent and would recommend most children partake in one of the few traditions we are able to enjoy this Christmas.



Midday Assitant

With the need to keep 'bubbles' separate at lunch time, we are often short of midday assistants, particularly when staff have to isolate. If you know anyone who would be interested in working at school as a midday on a casual basis, please email sbm@rodeheath.cheshire.sch.uk

Year 6 – Helping Others

Even though we couldn't have a harvest Fair this year, we still had enough money in our Charity Fund account to help others. For the past 10 years we have sponsored the education of a child through to adulthood. As we have now come to the end of that sponsorship, the Year 6 class decided to continue to support Action Aid by donating enough money to buy a water tank, some goats and some piglets for a village. As well as donating over £650 to Action Aid, we also donated over £450 to Alsager Food Bank as a thank you for supporting our families during lockdown. If you do require help from Alsager Food Bank, please call 07743659906 or email: alsagerfoodbank@aol.co.uk



Remote learning

We continue to strengthen our remote learning provision and have recently purchased a class set of tablet computers for our year 5 and 6 children. These devices will allow children to seamlessly continue with their work and curriculum, should we need to close a 'bubble.' Staff have had recent training on Remote Learning via Teams as well as See Saw and we do apologise if you are feeling a little overloaded with IT systems at the moment. We are trying to ensure that some of the homework set is using these platforms so that we can all gradually learn how best to navigate around these platforms. If there are any families who are finding accessing remote learning difficult due to either the number of devices at home or the



type of device at home, then please do get in touch through headofschool@rodeheath.cheshire.sch.uk

Drop off Times

Please adhere to the class staggered starting times as it does help to ensure we do not have large gatherings of either pupils or parents. To reiterate, you are able to drop off siblings at the time of their earliest start time to avoid lengthy periods of time waiting in the cold. Children in year 3 without siblings should not be arriving at school before 9.05 to start at 9.10.

Hello and Goodbye

A warm welcome to Lucien in year 3 who recently joined us. He has settled in really well. A fond farewell to Harry (EYFS) and Freddie (Y1) who are relocating to Gloucester. The boys have been great ambassadors for our school and we shall all miss them. I'd like to wish the family every future happiness in their next chapter. Gloucester is lucky to have them.

Dates for the diary

Thursday 10 th of December	Christmas dinner
Thursday 17 th of December	Christmas Panto & Christmas jumper day
Friday 18 th of December	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 5 th of January	School re opens

And Finally...

The staff at Rode Heath do recognise how lucky we are to teach in a school in such a fabulous community. This term has been like no other and covering staff due to illness and isolation periods has been a real juggle. This has been made so much easier due to your patience, messages of support and offers of help. Thank you. It really has helped.

We would like to wish all our families a peaceful and healthy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in 2021

Rachel Woollam